Minnesota AFL-CIO
2010 Legislative Candidate Questionnaire

Part One – Statement of Support

- I will support the principle that all workers, in both the public and private sectors, are entitled to form a union and bargain collectively in an environment free of interference, intimidation, or reprisals;
- I will publicly support workers who are forming unions by reaffirming the importance of unions to our communities;
- I will support workers' efforts to organize by issuing public statements, attending rallies supporting organizing, and sponsoring public forums;
- I will provide an effective voice for the working families in our state and work to increase the visibility of working families' issues and the union movement within the state legislature as well as oppose anti-labor legislation;
- I will actively promote a progressive working families' agenda in our state legislature by supporting issues including but not limited to:
    - Quality, affordable health care for all
    - High-quality public education for our children
    - Living wages that can support families
    - Job safety and health protections
    - A sound retirement system that includes pensions and private savings
    - Corporate responsibility to protect worker's compensation, unemployment insurance and prevailing wages
    - Fair trade policies that benefit rather than harm working families here and abroad

Legislative District Held/Sought: 37B

Date: 4/8

Name (print):

Part Two - Politics and Your Campaign

Why are you seeking Minnesota AFL-CIO endorsement?

To build a coalition to win. To unite people across the political spectrum.

What is your party affiliation, if any?

Republican endorsed

Are you seeking the endorsement of, or have you been endorsed by, your political party?

(YES) NO

What issue(s) do you think will be critical for voters in your legislative district in this election?

Fiscal Responsibility and solvency

Taxes and Local control

Job creation

Describe your strategy for winning the November 2010 General Election by outlining your campaign plan. *(attach additional sheets if necessary)*

Create a message focused on fiscal responsibility, the restructuring of tax and regulatory means and private Sector Job Creation.

Gain Momentum through grassroots organizing and building a "Big Tent" with our message.

* Using my summer off as a teacher to personally meet every voter in the district (twice if necessary)

Part Three - Legislative Issues

Most of the following questions can be answered "Yes," or "No." Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Organizing Rights

1. The Employee Free Choice Act in the U.S. Congress would help ensure that workers have the freedom to form and join unions without the fear of employer retaliation. Will you sign a letter of support or a petition to Congress in support of this legislation? YES NO

2. Will you urge employers to:
   a. respect employees' rights to form a union by remaining neutral during union organizing campaigns? YES NO
   b. recognize a union voluntarily when the majority of employees choose to form one via majority sign-up? YES NO
   c. bargain in good faith to reach an agreement with the union that represents the employees? YES NO
   d. support first contract mediation and arbitration if a first contract is not reached within three months? YES NO

Jobs

1. Will you support passing a **large** bonding bill **early** in the session, focusing as much of the dollars as possible on planned retrofitting, rehabilitation, and remodeling projects that can be undertaken very quickly? YES NO

2. a) Thousands of unemployed workers in Minnesota could be excluded again from a second federal unemployment extension. Will you support another state 'back-fill 'extension of unemployment benefits to make sure those workers are covered? YES NO

   b) Will you support reauthorizing the 35% COBRA subsidy for unemployed workers?

   YES NO

3. Will you oppose attempts to dismantle and/~~or reduce~~ funding for Minnesota's Dislocated Worker Program? YES NO

4. Vertical construction has virtually come to a halt - with an overall rate of unemployment in the construction industry is as high as 50% within some specialty trades. Will you support the Construction Coalition Jobs bill (SF2078)? YES NO

5. Would you support a job wage subsidy program to assist businesses to hire new workers similar to the MEED program of the 80s? YES NO

6. Do you believe employers should be ~~allowe~~d to pay tipped employees less than the minimum wage? YES NO

7. a) Will you support legislation prohibiting state agencies from contracting with companies that ~~outsource~~ off shore work and job opportunities to other countries? YES NO

b) Do you support contracting out any public services? If YES which ones?

The Job in which Marginal Revenue product of labor does not match the Income/Wage valuation of the Current employee

Budget and Revenue

8. Will you support providing more aid to local governments to prevent layoffs of local government employees? YES NO

9. Will you oppose further cuts to state government to avoid adding to unemployment?

YES

NO

10. Will you support a balanced approach to solving state budget emergencies, including raising additional revenue? YES NO

11. Will you support taking away credits and reduction for companies that "off-shore" their employees or those that lay off large numbers of workers? YES NO

12. Middle class taxpayers pay a larger percentage of their total income in state and local taxes than the percentage paid by the richest Minnesotans. Will you support a progressive tax system that makes the richest Minnesotans pay ***at least*** the same percentage of their income as middle class taxpayers? YES NO

13. How would you propose reforming our state budget to return fairness into our system?

I was given this yesterday.
In short
→ Local governments need their own revenue streams.
→ 65%-75% of K-12 goes to classroom
→ Flat tax on all income w/ sales at local Control

Health Care

14. On March 1st, all funding for General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) ~~will be eliminated~~. Hospitals across the state are bracing to lose well over $100 million per year in uncompensated care, and hundreds of health care workers could lose their jobs. Some counties have already considered raising property taxes in preparation for the impact, and costs will be shifted to private insurance holders. Will you support restoring funding for this program? YES NO

15. Nurses are reporting more and more staffing situations in which the safety of both patient and nurse is comprised due to extended shifts, mandatory overtime and growing complexity of demands. Legislation has been proposed to create staffing committees in hospitals to establish adjustable nurse to patient ratios. Will you support this legislation? YES NO

Support looking at it – not very knowledgeable here, but will research

Long-Term Care

16. The state reimbursement rates for long-term care facilities often fall short of the true cost of operating the facilities and paying the workers an adequate wage. Would you support efforts to align state reimbursement rates with the true cost of facility operation, including aligning annual worker COLAs closer to the real cost of living? YES NO

K- 12 Education

17. Will you support a tax system that provides for a school funding system that is equitable, sustainable, predictable and sufficient? (YES) NO

18. Should the Minnesota legislature guarantee ~~that~~ the state portion of Special Education be fully funded? YES (NO)

19. Do you support the use of public funds or tax credits for private education? YES NO

20. Do you support a requirement that every teacher be licensed through state-established, consistent standards regardless of the preparation route taken? (YES) NO

21. Will you support that ongoing professional development is provided to all teachers as part of their regular work day and be fully funded by the state? YES (NO)

Public Employee Bargaining Rights

22. a) Do you support the Public Employee Labor Relations Act (PELRA), protecting the right of public workers to collectively bargain for better wages, benefits and working conditions? YES NO

b) Would you propose any changes in PELRA? YES NO

c) If YES, what are the changes?

I need to read the entire 179A. Working on it.

Transportation

23. Would you support raising the gas tax to pay for roads, bridges, and infrastructure? YES (NO)

a) If so, how much? ____________

24. Would you support indexing the gas tax for inflation so that the purchasing power keeps up with the overall growth of the economy? YES (NO)

Building Trades

25. Would you support expanding Minnesota's prevailing wage law (state Davis - Bacon law) to cover the following:

a) ~~All~~ public and charter school construction in Minnesota? YES (NO)

Jim Crow

b) All projects funded by local units of government where only local tax dollars are used? YES (NO)

26. Do you support the use of Labor/Management, negotiated *Project Labor Agreements* on public construction and renovation projects?
YES $\boxed{\text{NO}}$
Exclusivity to unions

27. Do you support an equitable public-private ~~partnership~~ in the development of a Vikings Stadium? YES $\boxed{\text{NO}}$

Legislative Candidate Information

Please print or type.

Name: Kurt Bills Office sought: 37B

Address: P.O. Box 390

City: Rosemount Zip: 55068

Phone (w): (h): (cell):

FAX:

E-mail address:

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Campaign manager or contact person: Chris Mattson

Phone: E-mail:

Campaign website: kurtbills.com

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Are you a union member? (YES) NO

Union name and local number: DCUE

LOCAL 464 Laborer
LOCAL 392 Pipefitter

Signature: [signature] Date: 4/8/2010

Regional Labor Federation/Area Labor Council/Local Assembly/Local Central Labor Council use only

Local COPE Committee **Does** ☐ **Does not** ☐ recommend this candidate for endorsement.

Name of RLF/
ALC/Assembly/CLC: ______

Signed: ______ Date: ______

(RLF/ALC/Assembly/*CLC President*)

______ Date: ______

(RLF/ALC/Assembly/*CLC President*)

Signed: ______ Date: ______

(COPE Committee Chair [if applicable])

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Endorsement granted: **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐

Date: ______

Signed: ______

(President, Minnesota AFL-CIO)